

INITIATIVE 345

I, Sam Reed, Secretary of State of the State of Washington and custodian of its seal, hereby certify that, according to the records on file in my office, the attached copy of Initiative Measure No. 345 to the Legislature is a true and correct copy as it was received by this office.

1 AN ACT Relating to requiring the teaching of the relationship of
2 the Declaration of Independence to the Constitutions of the United
3 States and Washington state; amending RCW 28A.230.170; and creating new
4 sections.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The Declaration of Independence makes it
7 clear "that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their
8 Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life,
9 Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights,
10 Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from
11 the consent of the governed"

12 The Washington state Constitution echoes the Declaration of
13 Independence. The preamble states: "We, the people of the State of
14 Washington, grateful to the Supreme Ruler of the Universe for our
15 liberties, do ordain this constitution." Then, Article I, section 1 of
16 the state Constitution states: "All political power is inherent in the
17 people, and governments derive their just powers from the consent of
18 the governed, and are established to protect and maintain individual
19 rights."

1 We the people want to bestow upon our children and their children
2 the blessings of liberty. Schools must more effectively teach the
3 relationship of the Declaration of Independence to the United States
4 Constitution and the Washington state Constitution for this to happen.

5 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. Prior to the effective date of this section,
6 RCW 28A.230.170 stated: "The study of the Constitution of the United
7 States and the Constitution of the state of Washington shall be a
8 condition prerequisite to graduation from the public and private high
9 schools of this state." However, the courts have ruled "any study
10 constitutes study." Therefore, the superintendent of public
11 instruction has left it up to the teacher. Our schools are teaching
12 the mechanics of government more adequately than they are teaching the
13 foundation and purpose of government. They teach about human rights,
14 but most students do not comprehend the source of human rights and the
15 purpose of government as identified in the Declaration of Independence
16 and the Washington state Constitution.

17 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.230.170 and 1985 c 341 s 1 are each amended to
18 read as follows:

19 (~~(The study of)~~) (1) Schools shall teach the relationship of the
20 Declaration of Independence to the Constitution of the United States
21 and the Constitution of the state of Washington (~~(shall be)~~) as a
22 condition prerequisite to graduation from the public and private high
23 schools of this state. The state board of education acting upon the
24 advice of the superintendent of public instruction shall provide by
25 rule (~~(or regulation)~~) for the implementation of this section into
26 fifth grade, eighth grade, and two years of high school. Local school
27 boards shall ensure that each school conspicuously display copies of
28 the Declaration of Independence, the Bill of Rights, the United States
29 Constitution, and the Washington state Constitution.

30 (2) For the purposes of subsection (1) of this section, the word
31 "teach" requires:

32 (a) Teaching the relationship of the preamble to the Washington
33 state Constitution to the heritage and meaning of this statement from
34 the Declaration of Independence: "We hold these truths to be
35 self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by
36 their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are
37 Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness";

1 **(b) Teaching how Article I, section 1 and Article II of the state**
2 **Constitution implement this statement in the Declaration of**
3 **Independence: "That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted**
4 **among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the**
5 **governed."** Students shall be taught the inherent right of the people
6 **to elect government officials, and to enact or reject, at the polls,**
7 **legislation independent of the legislature, and to approve or reject,**
8 **at the polls, any law passed by the legislature;**

9 **(c) Relating the declaration of rights in the Washington state**
10 **Constitution to statements made in the Declaration of Independence, the**
11 **United States Constitution (including the Bill of Rights), and the**
12 **Northwest Ordinance, which sets the requirements for states to join the**
13 **union of states;**

14 **(d) Teaching the heritage and meaning of the religious freedom**
15 **statement of Article I, section 11 of the Washington state**
16 **Constitution. Suggested student readings include: Thomas Jefferson's**
17 **"Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom" (1786), and James Madison's**
18 **"Memorial and Remonstrance."** The purpose of this instruction is to
19 **illustrate the struggle for obtaining "absolute freedom of conscience**
20 **in all matters of religious sentiment ..." as stated in Article I,**
21 **section 11 of the Washington state Constitution;**

22 **(e) Encouraging but not requiring students to memorize the preamble**
23 **of the United States Constitution along with the preamble and Article**
24 **I, section 1 of the Washington state Constitution;**

25 **(f) Requiring that students read George Washington's first**
26 **inaugural address and farewell address and Abraham Lincoln's first**
27 **inaugural address and Gettysburg address. The purpose of this study is**
28 **to identify Washington and Lincoln's advice in supporting and defending**
29 **the United States Constitution;**

30 **(g) Illustrating, with teacher instruction, the relationship of the**
31 **"Pledge of Allegiance to the United States" to the Declaration of**
32 **Independence, the United States Constitution (the preamble and the 1st**
33 **Amendment), and the Washington state Constitution (the preamble and**
34 **Article I, sections 1 and 11);**

35 **(h) Testing, including state standardized testing, on the meanings**
36 **of the Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution, and**
37 **the Washington state Constitution. This testing will include the**
38 **meaning of words found in these documents such as: Initiative,**
39 **referendum, tyrant, despotism, providence, consanguinity, rectitude,**

1 endowed, unalienable, created equal, tranquility, posterity, ordain,
2 blessings, licentiousness, and "law of nature" as defined in the 1828
3 edition of Webster's Dictionary.

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